

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

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EA-10 EUR-12 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 IO-13 L-03
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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 146593

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, UNGA, CCD, US, AS

SUBJECT: UNSSOD: AUSTRALIAN INTEREST IN BECOMING A MEMBER
OF CCD

1. ON JUNE 7 AUSTRALIAN MINISTER COUNSELOR (BIRCH) CALLED
ON ACDA COUNSELOR (YARMOLINSKY) AND HANDED OVER A
DIPLOMATIC NOTE WHICH SOUGHT US SUPPORT FOR AUSTRALIAN
CANDIDACY FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE
ON DISARMAMENT (CCD). BIRCH ADDED THAT AUSTRALIAN DEL IN
NEW YORK HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED FIRM SUPPORT FOR THEIR
CANDIDACY FROM BOTH MEXICO AND ARGENTINA.

2. YARMOLINSKY RESPONDED THAT IN US VIEW AUSTRALIA WAS A
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WELL QUALIFIED CANDIDATE FOR CCD MEMBERSHIP. HOWEVER, IN
THE FINAL ANALYSIS THE QUESTION OF EXPANDING CCD MEMBER-
SHIP WILL BE DETERMINED BY REGIONAL AND POLITICAL
BALANCING, AND WILL PROBABLY BE SETTLED AS PART OF AN
OVERALL PACKAGE ON THE MACHINERY ISSUE.

3. TEXT OF AUSTRALIAN NOTE FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT. THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND HAS THE HONOUR TO SEEK ITS SUPPORT FOR AUSTRALIA'S CANDIDATURE AS A MEMBER OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT.

THERE ARE NOW REASONABLE PROSPECTS THAT THE SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT WILL RECOMMEND A MODERATE EXPANSION IN MEMBERSHIP OF THE CCD. IN THAT EVENT, AUSTRALIA BELIEVES IT IS WELL QUALIFIED FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

(A) SINCE THERE ARE SEVEN NATO STATES ALREADY IN THE CCD, ANY ADDITIONAL WESTERN REPRESENTATION SHOULD GO TO A NON-NATO WESTERN-ALIGNED COUNTRY;

(B) THE ASIA/PACIFIC REGION WARRANTS INCREASED REPRESENTATION;

(C) AUSTRALIA HAS PLAYED AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND OTHER ARMS CONTROL FORA, IN PARTICULAR ON NUCLEAR ISSUES, AND OUR PURSUIT OF CCD MEMBERSHIP OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS;

(D) AUSTRALIA HAS PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN SUBSIDIARY GROUPS: THE CCD EXPERT GROUPS ON NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONES AND SEISMIC DETECTION AND THE IAEA AD HOC ADVISORY GROUP ON PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS;
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(E) AS A MAJOR POTENTIAL URANIUM SUPPLIER, AUSTRALIA IS SEEKING AS A CO-LEADER OF INFCE WORKING GROUP 3 TO CONTRIBUTE TO AN INTERNATIONAL CONSENSUS ON NON-PROLIFERATION ARRANGEMENTS AND THE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY, AND WOULD LIKE TO PURSUE THIS INTEREST IN THE PRINCIPAL ARMS CONTROL FORUM.

THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE THE ASSURANCE OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. END TEXT. VANCE

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